

5.14 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* (P.L. 90-542), passed by Congress in 1968, provides protection for free-flowing river areas that “possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values.” The United States Department of Interior is charged with the responsibility of identifying and inventorying rivers or river segments that could be potential candidates for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Park Service has compiled and maintains the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI). The NRI is a register of rivers that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The intent of the NRI is to provide information to assist in making balanced decisions regarding the use of the nation’s river resources.

No waterways in the Gary/Chicago International Airport study area or surrounding properties are protected as Wild and Scenic Rivers System¹. In fact no rivers in Indiana are protected as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The only river in Illinois in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is the Middle Fork Vermilion, near Danville, Illinois². Reviewing the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, there are no rivers or river segments in Lake County, Indiana in this inventory.³ Accordingly, this environmental factor is not applicable to the Proposed Action at the Gary/Chicago International Airport.

1 Gary/Chicago Airport Authority, prepared by HNTB Corporation. Gary/Chicago Airport Master Plan Update. November 2001.

2 National Park Service. River, Trails & Conservation Program: National River Inventory. February 19, 2004. Internet Web Site <<http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wrldriverslist.html>>.

3 National Park Service. National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. March 4, 2004. <<http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri>>.

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